

Supervisors Molina and Antonovich Announce 24-7 Paramedic Air Squad Helicopter Service for East San Gabriel Valley

Round the Clock Paramedic Air Squad Helicopter Added, and LAC+USC Designated Trauma Center for East San Gabriel Valley

On September 27, Board of Supervisors Chair Gloria Molina and Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich joined Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Carol Meyer to announce the availability of paramedic air squad services for trauma patients from the east San Gabriel Valley 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Supervisors Molina and Antonovich co-authored a motion approved by the Board of Supervisors directing the Fire Department and EMS to station a helicopter with a dedicated crew in the San Gabriel Valley, so that calls from the east San Gabriel Valley can be responded to with greater ease and efficiency.

“Our goal is to increase access to emergency and trauma care for San Gabriel Valley residents,” Supervisor Molina said. “Currently, patients from the San Gabriel Valley consistently receive specialized trauma care within 30 minutes or less—which is better than the statewide and national averages. But our objective is to establish equitable access to trauma care for San Gabriel Valley residents. By guaranteeing 24-7 paramedic air squad helicopter services, we are another step closer to this goal. We also strengthen our overall trauma capacity and emergency preparedness, which will help us in case of a major disaster—and dealing with Hurricane Katrina’s aftermath these past few weeks underscored just how important that is.”

Supervisor Antonovich added that, “When tragedy strikes, trauma victims must be taken to a designated trauma center immediately. The injured must have immediate access to trauma surgeons, neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, and other physician specialists. By strengthening the existing trauma transport and trauma center accessibility, this action ensures that San Gabriel Valley residents have 24-7 [paramedic air] services and increased access to vital emergency and trauma care.”

Providing 24-7 paramedic air squad helicopter services will require three staff positions at a total cost of approximately \$450,000 using Measure B funds. Three years ago, voters passed Measure B—a three-cent per square foot parcel tax—which generates about \$170 million annually to improve access to trauma care. Last year, almost 20 percent of Measure B funds came from San Gabriel Valley residents.

At the press conference, Supervisors Molina and Antonovich also announced that the Los Angeles County+University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Medical Center will serve as the designated trauma facility for any portions of the east San Gabriel Valley that are not already covered by Huntington Memorial Hospital’s trauma center.

The San Gabriel Valley region comprises 417 square miles; it includes over 30 cities and unincorporated areas of County land. The region is home to approximately 1.6 million people.



Supervisors Molina and Antonovich join Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman, Carol Meyer of EMS, Dr. Thomas Garthwaite of the Department of Health Services and various San Gabriel Valley elected officials to announce 24-7 paramedic air squad helicopter service for the east San Gabriel Valley.

HIGHLIGHTS

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“To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service”

EVENT CALENDAR

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden

301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes,
please visit www.arboretum.org or call
(626) 821-4623

Los Angeles County Museum of Art 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036

(323) 857-6000

www.lacma.org

Through November 15 - Tutankhamun & Golden
Age of Pharaohs (King Tut Exhibit)

Through January 15 - The Pharaoh's World
(Boone Children's Gallery, LACMA West)

Music Center

135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

(213) 972-7211

www.musiccenter.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Nov 10-Dec 24 – The Drowsy Chaperone

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Nov 19-Dec 15 – Giacomo Puccini's "Tosca"

Nov 26-Dec 14 – Richard Wagner's "Parsifal"

Mark Taper Forum

Through November 13 – Romance

Dec 11-Jan 22 – "Lewis and Clark Reach the
Euphrates"

Walt Disney Concert Hall

151 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012

NOVEMBER

11 - L.A. Philharmonic: Shostakovich 15th

12 - Songwriter's Summit

13 - L.A. Philharmonic: Shostakovich 15th

15 - Chamber Music Society: the Art of the Guitar

16 - Django Reinhardt Festival

17 - Assads In Recital

18 - L.A. Philharmonic: Rodrigo (Casual Friday)

19 - Toyota Symphonies for Youth: Beethoven's
In the House (11 a.m.)

19 - L.A. Philharmonic: Rodrigo Concerto (8 p.m.)

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles

(213) 763-3466

www.nhm.org

Through January 2006 – Collapse?

Metro Orange Line Grand Opening

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (right) gives "thumbs up" to launch the new Metro Orange Line busway service across the San Fernando Valley. Joining Supervisor Yaroslavsky for the inaugural ride, from the left, are MTA Executive Director Roger Snoble, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Sheriff Lee Baca, along with many other dignitaries and guests. Supervisor Yaroslavsky had long championed the idea of creating a dedicated



14-mile long rapid busway across the Valley linking Warner Center to North Hollywood and the Metro Red Line, and led the drive to secure funding and political support for the project. Running along a former railroad right-of-way, the bright orange Metroliner buses speed passengers across the Valley in roughly 40 minutes, a significant improvement over bumper-to-bumper freeway traffic. Complimentary ridership for the opening weekend topped 80,000 passengers, and Supervisor Yaroslavsky is confident that daily commuters will eagerly embrace "the Valley's new shortcut."

County DIGEST

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may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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1-800-87-FRAUD

Third Annual Healing American Indian Nations Conference November 17-18, 2005

The Department of Mental Health in collaboration with the Latino Behavioral Health Institute is sponsoring the Third Annual Healing American Indian Nations 2005 Conference. The conference will take place November 17 and 18 at the Hilton Los Angeles Universal City in Universal City, California.

This conference is dedicated to providing high quality training for all clients and professionals working with American Indian children, families, adults and the elderly in need of behavioral health care. The American Indian Conference has become a critical event for the Los Angeles American Indian community, which is the largest concentration of urban American Indians in the country. The conference addresses economic, geographical, institutional and cultural issues of nature that impact the mental health and well-being of American Indians in their community and in American society.

Early registration is recommended. For more information and registration, please call the Department of Mental Health, Training and Cultural Competency Bureau at (213) 738-2318 for a brochure or e-mail DMHTraining@dmh.co.la.ca.us.

Knabe Katch Fishing Derby Held at La Mirada Regional Park

Over 1,000 youth ages 5 to 15 were angling for a prize catch at the 2005 Knabe Katch Fishing Derby at La Mirada Regional Park on Saturday, September 24. The event was hosted by Supervisor Don Knabe, the La Mirada Kiwanis Club, the City of La Mirada and the Department of Parks and Recreation. It was a fun-filled day for the entire family.

"The fishing derbies are always fun events that children and families look forward to and many return to participate each year," Supervisor Knabe said. "Even

if a child has never fished before, there are volunteers on-hand to show them the art of casting a line and the fun of putting a worm on a hook."



The event began at 7 a.m. with a free pancake breakfast, followed by the derby kickoff at 8 a.m. The children took part in free fishing and angler safety lessons, as well as other activities. Each child also received a free t-shirt and was eligible for prizes in several categories.

Supervisor Antonovich Celebrates Anniversary of Los Angeles County's Oldest Settlement

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, September 6, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich welcomed officials from the City of San Gabriel and representatives from the San Gabriel Mission and Los Pobladores 200, to join in proclaiming the week of September 2nd through 9th, 2005 as "The 234th anniversary of Los Angeles County's Oldest Settlement, the San Gabriel Mission," and salute Los Angeles County's founding families, "Los Pobladores 200."



Pictured from left to right are Paul Guzman (President, Los Pobladores 200), Princess Pamela Ramirez (2005-2006 San Gabriel Mission Fiesta Royal Court), Queen Joanna Martinez (2005-2006 San Gabriel Mission Fiesta Royal Court), Debra Rodarte (Los Pobladores 200), Princess Sarah Garrett (2005-2006 San Gabriel Mission Fiesta Royal Court), Algis Marciuska (San Gabriel Mission), Supervisor Antonovich, San Gabriel Mayor Juli Costanzo, Councilmember David Gutierrez, Vice-Mayor Chi Mui, Councilmember Harry Baldwin, and Councilmember Kevin Sawkins.

The San Gabriel Mission was established on September 8, 1771 by the native Shoshone people and the Franciscans as the agricultural, cultural and spiritual center of Los Angeles County. Ten years later in 1781, Fathers Joseph de la Somera and Pedro Cambón led several Indian acolytes and 11 families – Los Pobladores – on a nine mile walk from the San Gabriel Mission to what is now present day Olvera Street in downtown Los Angeles. There, they founded "El Pueblo de Nuestra la Reina de Los Angeles," the City of Our Lady Queen of the Angels.

RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

ASSESSOR: Albert F. Kolta, Robert E. Wolfsohn

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER: Samir N. Morcos

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Rhonda Y. Humphrey, Joanne M. Kashitani Ok

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Doreen E. Jackson

FIRE: Randall R. Bruno, Scott C. Jones

HEALTH SERVICES: Clara Dozier, Karen Eason, Mario Hernandez, Richard R. Jaramillo, Theodore Q. Miller, Gladys E. Morales, Carol J. Morris-Lowe, Robert Perry, Patricia A. Thompson, Robert N. Yoshimori

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Thomas Ramirez

INTERNAL SERVICES: Walter L. Binney, Thomas T. Doutherd, Kathy N. Mizushima

LACERA: Harriette A. Ely

MENTAL HEALTH: Steven M. Kravit

PROBATION: Carolyn A. Boutney, Morris A. Caldwell, Joseph G. Cervantes, Darryl S. Duckworth, Joe R. Murillo Jr.

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Doris C. Baird, Verninita Booker, Pamela K. Collins, Louie C. Garcia, Maxine Hamilton, Joanne Johnson, Yonda S. Lee, Mary S. Lordan, Viola Meeks, Frank Robles, Joyce M. Sampson

PUBLIC WORKS: Ruben Jimenez

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Charles Hinojos Jr.

SHERIFF: Macrina Q. Aguon, Joseph D. Arteaga, Michael Cerecedas, Ruth Martinez, Roxanne Shakelford

SUPERIOR COURT: Julia Gonzalez, John B. Wright III

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:

FIRE: Alan G. Lenhart

HEALTH SERVICES: Lavon Austin, Melvin E. Brown, Elkanah Carter, Julian Espinoza, Bobbie L. Holmes, Bernice B. Kelley, Mai N. Maitam, Jesus Mansilla, Patricia A. Murillo

HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY: Melthorn D. Bolen

INTERNAL SERVICES: Lucy Y. Chao, Ghobrial Z. Youssef

LACERA: Delia K. Price

MENTAL HEALTH: Rose M. White

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Rosalie C. Braun, Hong K. Chant, Cynthia A. Dobard, Li-Shin H. Lin

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK: Victoria E. Domingo, Joe W. Myers

SHERIFF: Dwight J. Kenney, Elizario Rivera

Employee of the Month: Health Services' Patricia Flores

With her parents by her side, Patricia Flores, the Employee of the Month for September 2005, accepted her scroll from Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair of the Board of Supervisors, with pride coupled with a little bit of nervousness.



Flores, a three-year employee of the County of Los Angeles, is currently employed as a Licensed Vocational Nurse II with the Department of Health Services. She is assigned to the Pediatric Immunization Services of the Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Center where she serves as the Center's nurse coordinator. As such, her responsibilities include coordinating the Immunization Program for infants, children and adolescents, ensuring that the quantity of vaccinations, immunization supplies and literature are sufficient at all times. Due to her diligence and work ethic, no vaccine shortages have occurred on her watch.

She is also responsible for providing post-counseling services such as lab test instructions to patients using the clinician's plan of care.

Early this year, due to her in-depth knowledge of immunization-related issues and innovative drive, Flores was assigned to coordinate LINK, the in-house Los Angeles Immunization Network. LINK, an Internet-based registry for providers and agencies, is designed to track patient immunization history and needs across multiple provider service areas. The system has benefited and been embraced by both patients and staff.

"My association with this program brings me so much satisfaction," she added.

Success in work has carried through to her outside activities, as well. When her sister made a bid for a seat on the Bell Gardens City Council, Flores campaigned for her diligently. As a result, her sister is now a Bell Gardens councilmember.

Despite attending to children at work, Flores is not deterred from working with children on the weekends...something she

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Supervisor Antonovich Launches Campaign to Reduce Dog Attacks

On Friday, August 19, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich hosted a press conference launching a campaign to reduce the number of dog attacks in the Antelope Valley and Countywide.

Joined by Marcia Mayeda, Director of the Department of Animal Care and Control, as well as Palmdale and Lancaster city officials and other community leaders, Supervisor Antonovich unveiled a comprehensive effort to address the sharp increase in attacks by aggressive dogs – mostly pit bulls. To date, attacks by vicious and dangerous dogs in the Antelope Valley alone have jumped by more than 300% over the previous year.

“Vicious dog attacks have become a serious and widespread threat to the safety and welfare of the citizens of Los Angeles County,” Supervisor Antonovich said. “These attacks often occur in public places without provocation or warning and inflict serious injury, sometimes resulting in death.”



Supervisor Antonovich is pictured with Animal Care & Control officers who participated in morning sweeps for dangerous dogs on the loose in the Antelope Valley.



Vicious dog attacks are on the rise across the County. In early August, a 2-year-old Glendale girl was ripped from her mother's arms and killed by a rottweiler. Earlier this year, a Quartz Hill woman was permanently injured by a neighbor's pit bull. And in Lancaster, a defenseless woman was seriously injured when she was attacked protecting her poodle from a pit bull.

To improve public safety, Supervisor Antonovich introduced a three-pronged effort to reduce the number of dog bite incidents. In June, the Board of Supervisors approved an additional \$245,000 to increase the number of animal enforcement personnel at the County's Antelope Valley shelter. These five new enforcement officers will work to target irresponsible pet owners.

Secondly, a public education and outreach campaign has been launched to inform people how to protect themselves and report vicious dogs. Local businesses have been asked to display a poster with the phone number of where to report dogs before they attack and the rules to live by in case you are threatened or attacked.

On August 9, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Antonovich's motion to support state legislation that will allow local government to regulate vicious dogs. If passed into law, Senate Bill 861 (Speier) will allow counties and cities to pass ordinances to reduce the incidents of maulings and deaths by requiring mandatory spaying and neutering on certain breeds, restricting breeding in some cases, and keeping accurate data on specific breeds to track the effectiveness of the policy. The bill was sent to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on August 31.

ENRICHING LIVES...

Los Angeles County Day at the L.A. County Fair

The event, held on September 11 was the first of its kind for the County. It was coordinated by the Chief Administrative Office's (CAO) Public Affairs Office and had enthusiastic support from the departments.

There were: 26 department booths; 10 County vehicles displayed in the Expo area; 17 department entries in the parade, including the CAO's entry put together by Protocol that featured representatives of 18 countries in their native costumes; the district attorney as grand marshal; and an excellent turnout of department heads for the parade and luncheon.

Approximately 200 "I (heart) LA County" polo shirts were sold to employees – 100 to the Department of Public Social Services alone.

The discount admission tickets were popular with County employees; some were still calling the Public Affairs Office the Friday afternoon before the Sunday event to get additional tickets.

The Fair Board of Directors met the morning of County Day and members were so impressed with the County's efforts that they recommended making it an annual event. CAO David E. Janssen, who was very supportive of this event and complimentary of departments' efforts – agreed that we will do it again in 2006 and then decide whether we want to make it annual. Several departments that did not participate this year have said they definitely will do so next year.

Supervisor Molina has also committed to being in the 2006 parade. Though she was not "in" the parade this year, she was at the fairgrounds and was waving at the parade entries as they went by.

This was a fun event and built camaraderie among departments. Additionally, it put a face on County government for members of the public, who often don't realize what the County does. And it was a positive face.





County of Los Angeles VISION

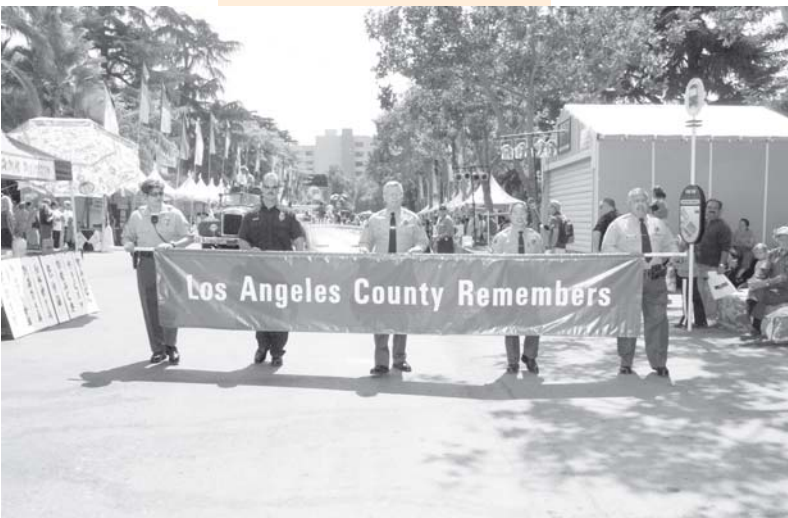
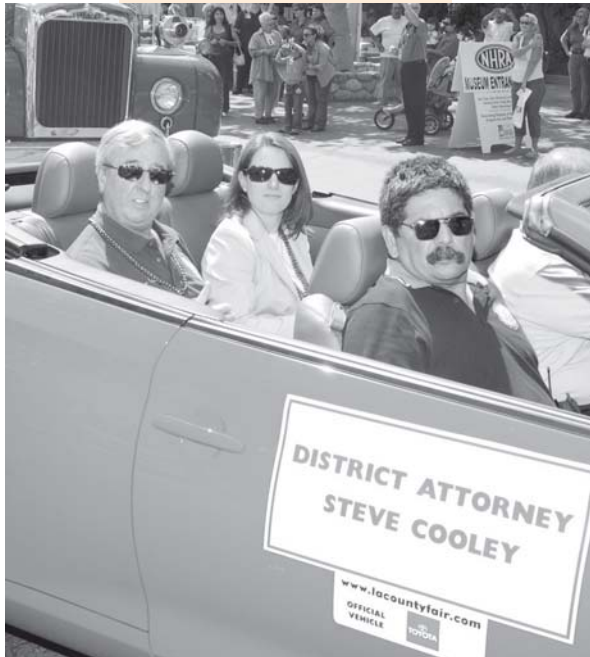
Our *purpose* is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our *philosophy* of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our *shared values*:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our *position* as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- a capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.





On Wednesday, September 14, Supervisor Knabe (*pictured*) joined Thailand's Consul General for a demonstration game of Sepak Takraw, the national sport of Thailand, on the Civic Center Mall. Sepak Takraw is similar to volleyball. Three players per side volley a woven wooden ball into a hoop approximately 15 feet off the ground. Players are not allowed to use their hands or arms, so feet, legs and shoulders are used to launch the ball into the net.

Supervisor Molina Announces Enhanced Services to Health, Safety & Parks

Board of Supervisors Chair, Gloria Molina announced that more improvements to public health, safety, housing, parks, and libraries are underway since the County budget has been finalized.



"I am proud to report that we also gave our In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers a long overdue raise," Supervisor Molina said.

The County's current fiscal picture is especially rosy due to a combination of several factors. First, a hot real estate market translated into higher County property tax revenues. Second, prudent budget planning during rougher fiscal years has kept the County on solid financial footing. Lastly, voters statewide approved a ballot initiative preventing County coffers from being used to balance the State of California's own budget.

"This means that for the first time in a long time we have extra funding to enhance various services for residents," Supervisor Molina said.

For instance, the Board of Supervisors added \$125 million of ongoing funds into the Department of Health Services' (DHS) budget. The County of Los Angeles also successfully negotiated a waiver with the federal government generating more than \$450 million over the next five years.

In addition, the Sheriff's Department received an extra \$10 million specifically to increase patrol in unincorporated areas.

The Board of Supervisors also set aside \$20 million to construct emergency shelters for homeless families and they set the groundwork for a Housing Trust Fund that eventually will augment affordable housing opportunities.

Parks and libraries also fared well this year. The First District alone received \$28.86 million of one-time funds which, among other things, will go toward an expanded Sorensen Library; a new park in Avocado Heights; more pocket parks in urban areas; a bike route system connected to the larger Los Angeles River refurbishment project; additional soccer fields; and construction of water play areas known as "splash pads."

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loves to do. She is an assistant coach to a soccer team composed of young girls. To promote literacy among our youth, she has donated books to the Roybal Comprehensive Health Center's "Out and Read Program."

"I find most fulfilling the daily interaction with the children and seeing the smiles on their faces," Flores said.

Her parents, standing next to her when she accepted the honor of being Employee of the Month, beamed with great pride, which was evident in their smiles.

"I am very proud of my siblings and am very lucky to have such wonderful and loving parents," Flores said.

Flores graduated from Pacific Coast College with a Licensed Vocational Nurse diploma and is certified for Blood Withdrawal.

Congratulations, Patricia Flores, for your dedication to your profession and for possessing the highest quality of service in both your professional and personal endeavors.

County Employee's Survivors Need to Know: What to Do When a County Employee Dies

When a spouse or a loved one dies, determining survivor benefits can be a very confusing and overwhelming process. It is suggested that you keep a copy of this article with pertinent papers along with a relatively current 15th of the month pay stub which shows various deduction codes. The following outlines steps to help the survivors of a deceased County employee.

1. Obtain certified copies of the death certificate

The funeral director, in most cases, will supply the family with a certified copy of the death certificate. It is suggested that ten copies of the death certificate are obtained, since they will be needed to establish claims for life insurance policies, social security benefits, and veteran's benefits. Additional copies of the death certificate may be obtained from the following:

- If the death occurred in Los Angeles County, certified copies of the death certificate may be obtained for a fee from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Death Records, please visit http://lavote.net/recorder/birth_death.htm#death for additional information.
- If the death occurred in another county or state, a certified copy of the death certificate should be obtained from the appropriate authority, which is usually the Registrar of Vital Statistics.

2. Contact the County department in which the loved one worked for

(Note to County employees: please insert your department's name and payroll section telephone number here) _____.

The department has the most accurate record of all time accrued including regular, overtime, sick leave, and vacation time.

The **DEPARTMENT** will then initiate notification to the following:

- **Auditor-Controller** to arrange for the issuing and cashing of paychecks or payments due to the deceased.
A certified copy of the death certificate will be needed.
 - *Note to Employees: - At the time of original hiring, every employee completes a "warrant designation" card naming the person authorized to receive and cash checks in the event of an employee's incapacity or death. That card is forwarded to the Auditor-Controller and serves as their authority to comply with the employee's wishes. Updating this card periodically to reflect family status changes is the employee's responsibility. To make a change, simply have the County employee fill out a new "Warrant Designation Form" in their payroll section. The designee must be 18 years or older.*
- **Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA)** 300 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 130, Pasadena 91101, (800)786-6464. LACERA determines who, for "Retirement purposes only" is the beneficiary and makes arrangements for any death benefits that may be due. **A certified copy of the death certificate will be needed; also a marriage certificate if deceased was married.**
- **Los Angeles County Deferred Contribution Plan** (Deferred Compensation and Thrift Plan (Horizons), Savings Plan, Deferred Earning Plan and/or Termination Pay Pickup Plan). *Great-West Retirement Services, 500 North Central Avenue, Suite 220, Glendale, CA 91203, (800) 947-0845.*
 - Great-West determines who for "each plan only" is a beneficiary and makes arrangements for any death benefits that may be due. **A certified copy of the death certificate will be needed.**
- **Los Angeles County Pensions Savings Plan** (Part time, seasonal and temporary employees) 3333 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90010, (213) 738-2252
 - Pensions Savings Plan staff determine who for "this plan only" is a beneficiary and makes arrangements for any death benefits that may be due. **A certified copy of the death certificate will be needed.**
- **DHR Employee Benefits Division**, regarding life insurance as a benefit (County paid Group Term Life for all full time active employees, other than MegaFlex participants); or Optional Group Term Life or optional Accidental Death and Dismemberment. **A certified copy of the death certificate will be needed.**
- If the death was caused by a work related injury, contact the Workers Compensation Division, 3333 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 820, Los Angeles 90010, (213) 738-2226.

SURVIVORS

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SURVIVORS

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3. The following information may also be helpful:

- COBRA Law (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) provides you and your dependents the option to elect limited extension of your County group health insurance coverage in certain instances. Upon death of an employee, a COBRA election form and notice is automatically sent to the spouse and dependents from the County's Benefits Administrator.
- Contact each of the following:
 - Employee Credit Unions (latest pay stub will show which one) regarding any savings accounts, loans, or death benefits.
 - Social Security office nearest your home to determine eligibility for continuing or lump sum benefits.
 - Banks for release of accounts, loans, and safety deposit boxes.
 - Employee associations, trade or craft unions or professional organizations regarding insurance which may be automatic with membership or optionally carried for the employee.
 - If the deceased had private life insurance, contact the appropriate agent, company, or companies and any religious or social organization to which the deceased belonged.
 - If the deceased served in the military, the Military and Veterans Affairs, 1816 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles 90015, (213) 744-4825 should be contacted for possible funeral or survivor benefits.
- Generally, transfers of property resulting from the death of a spouse do not cause reappraisal for property tax purposes. For assistance, call (213) 974-3211 for the location of the Assessor's regional office nearest you.
- To get information on the tax status for prior or current years, call the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Telephone Inquiry Unit at (213) 974-2111 or 2116.
- If you are the friend or neighbor of a deceased County employee who has no known relatives immediately available, call the intake/investigation unit of the Public Administrator Operations at (213) 974-0460.
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP) – 3333 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1000, Los Angeles 90010, (213) 738-4200, will provide telephone resource counseling and referral services to survivors. Personal one-on-one grief counseling is provided if the survivor is a County employee.

People who have lost a loved one need to remember that to grieve is normal, personal and takes time. Reaching out to others such as co-workers and neighbors can sometimes help.

LACERA Election Results

At its meeting of September 20, the Board of Supervisors certified the July 26, 2005 Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA) General Members and Retired Members election results official. The Board declared Mr. Yves Chery elected to the office of the Second Member, Board of Retirement and Mr. Simon S. Russin elected to the office of the Second Member, Board of Investments. Mr. William "Bill" De La Garza was declared appointed in lieu of election to the office of the Eighth Member, Board of Retirement, Ms. Diane A. Sandoval elected to the office of the Eighth Member, Board of Investments, and Mr. Edward "Ed" C. Morris elected to the office of the Alternate Eighth Member, Board of Retirement.

Share Your Heart...Share Your Home



Adopt a Waiting Child
1-888-811-1121

or visit the Department of Children and Families'
Web site at www.dcfs.co.la.ca.us

~Please tear out this page and keep for your records~

Supervisor Burke Hosts 10th Annual “Fishing in the City”

More than 400 foster children and at-risk children, ages 7-15 years old, climbed off buses near the lake at Kenneth Hahn Park at 10 a.m. They were guests at Supervisor Yvonne Burke’s 10th annual “Fishing in the City” party, an event organized to expose inner city children to the experience of fishing.

Nearly 200 volunteers gave their time to show the children how to fish – including baiting a hook, casting a line, and reeling a fish in. They also showed the children how to clean their catch. The volunteers came from the departments of Parks and Recreation, Fire and Sheriff’s, the Pacific American Volunteers Association and the Mary Lind Foundation Recovery Homes. The County Fish and Game Commission and the California State Fish and Game Department stocked the lake with catfish and provided fishing poles.



Just before lunch, enthusiastic guests showed off their catch to Supervisor Burke (third from right) and volunteers.



Supervisor Burke (second from left) helped volunteers serve lunch to guests and volunteers.

Supervisor Burke said she first got the idea for the event because she had discovered that most foster children had never been out of their immediate neighborhoods. “They had never been to a beach, they had never even been to a park,” she said. “As an avid fisherwoman, I know how the time you spend with a fishing pole dangling in the water can be a time of enjoyment and self-renewal. I wanted to provide this kind of experience for children who otherwise might never be exposed to it.”

While at the park, the children also learned how to behave in a public park, and the importance of conservation. Before they began fishing, they were treated to breakfast, and were shown how to clean up after themselves. After fishing, they were treated to lunch, and danced to music. Then, as 2:30 p.m. rolled around, they began to board the buses to head home.

“I couldn’t do this without the dedicated work of my staff, committed social workers, compassionate volunteers and generous sponsors,” Supervisor Burke said. She noted that sponsors included Brian Clark, a McDonald’s franchise owner who provided breakfast; PXP Oil Company, which provided hamburger patties and frankfurters; Unified Western Groceries, which provided hamburger and hot dog buns; WalMart; Superior Warehouses; Food4Less; Smart & Final; Hansen’s Sodas; California-American Water; Neutrogena; and Warehouse Shoe Sales, which provided music and a stage where the children could dance. Supervisor Burke said the event has grown over the last 10 years, from 50 children to more than 400.

Correction: Supervisor Burke Remembers Watts Riots 1965

In the September 2005 issue, it was erroneously noted that members of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) made the arrest that touched off the riots. In fact, a California Highway Patrol officer made the arrest. LAPD officers were called to the scene later on.

Share It

Plain Language Campaign Launched



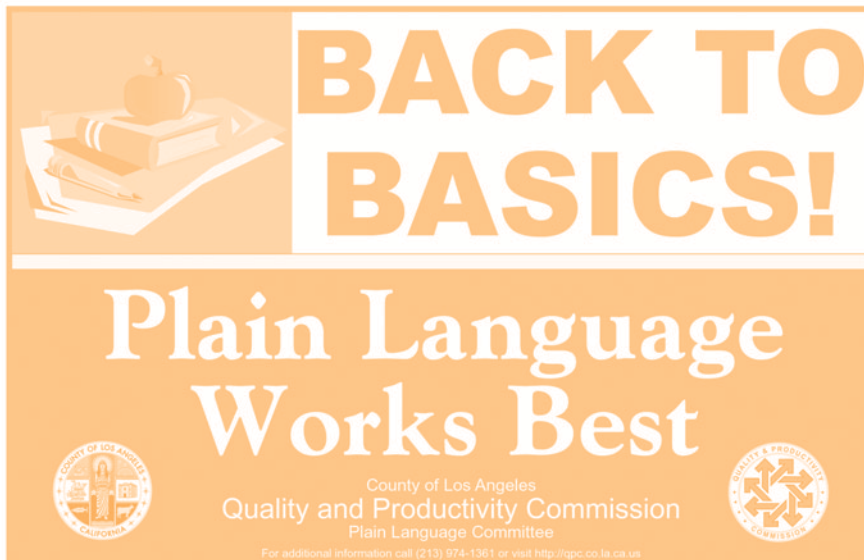
The Quality and Productivity Commission launched a “*Plain Language Initiative*” campaign to promote the use of Plain Language. Plain Language is communication your audience can understand the first time they read or hear it. The purpose is to improve customer service and reduce costs.

A series of posters will feature the primary theme, “**Plain Language Works Best,**” supported by messages such as “*Back to Basics,*” “*Simply Speaking,*” “*Be a Good Communicator*” and “*Plain Language Saves....Time and Money.*”

Written material is in plain language if your audience can:

- Find what they need;
- Understand what they find; and
- Use what they find to meet their needs.

The Department of Consumer Affairs is the leader in promoting the use of Plain Language by translating customer tip sheets, web pages, and recorded information messages. The benefits of this effort has improved customer service and increased staff productivity. Consumer Affairs provided Plain Language awareness training to the department Productivity Managers.



How can I check the reading level of my written letters or reports?

Not everyone has the same reading skill. National surveys report that the average adult reads at the seventh grade level. Using Plain Language helps us to reach a larger public audience. The benefits are greater understanding, faster reading speeds and better retention.

You can check the grade level and readability of your documents by using Microsoft Word’s “Tools-Options-Spelling” and click on Grammar-Show Readability Statistics.

For additional information on Plain Language, contact your departmental Productivity Manager or log on to <http://qpc.co.la.ca.us>



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